
July 2003 - Injury Prevention Newsletter

Alaska News and Resources

1. EMS Symposium - Anchorage November 12-15, 2003
2. Alaska Health Summit - Anchorage December 1-4, 2003
3. Lifespan Home Modification has offices in Alaska

National News and Resources

4. Insurance company finds Correlation between Bad Driving, Full Moon
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1. **EMS Symposium** Anchorage Alaska November 12-15: The annual EMS Symposium will be held at the Egan Center. Again there will be an injury prevention track as there has been in past years. Topics will be: Tribal Injury Prevention programs, Injury Prevention in a Bag for EMS personnel, Selling Yourself (commonly known as social marketing), Updates on Inhalant and Club Drugs, Assessing Suicidal Risk, and "I'm Lost - Will I be Found?" with SEADOGS. Registration and other symposium information can be obtained at: www.chems.alaska.gov/EMS/Symposium.htm Don't delay if you still want to attend. The registration form can be printed off from the website.
2. **Alaska Health Summit:** Anchorage Alaska December 1-4 Anchorage Sheraton Hotel. This is the first year that the Health Summit will offer an Injury Prevention track. Starting on December 1 there will be a pre-conference session addressing the public health approach to injury prevention. Other conference sessions will cover topics on injuries are not accidents, surviving outdoor adventures, injury disparities research and practice, and finally, using the media in injury prevention. The Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program has scholarship opportunities which will cover airfare and hotel. To request a scholarship please contact Martha Moore at (907) 465-8631. For more information on the Health Summit: www.alaskapublichealth.org for the registration and the summit schedule and it's speakers.
3. **Lifespan Home Modifications:** Lifespan Home Modification recently presented a course on "Remodeling Homes for Elderly Needs" at the Alaska State Home Builders Association Convention. Topics covered were: Customer and home assessments, interior and exterior access, bathroom and kitchen projects, and maintenance issues and resources. Lifespan has offices in Sitka and Fairbanks. For information, contact them at www.homemodification.com, or at 800-993-1798 or locally at 457-5433.
4. **Insurance Company finds Correlation between Bad Driving, Full Moon:** as excerpted from the San Diegochannel.com If you are driving during a full moon, you are more likely to get into a traffic accident, a British insurance company said.

Despite numerous arguments against the theory drawing a correlation between lunar phases and human behavior, Churchill Insurance Group claims that a statistical link exists between bad drivers and a full moon. Churchill holds a database of roughly 3 million automobile policies. Churchill's research shows that, on average, there are 14% more collisions during full moon periods. "This intriguing data shows that all types of collisions increase, from multi-vehicle crashes and single-car collisions to drivers simply reversing into a post," the company said. Churchill's strongest recommendation is to simply avoid traveling by car at all.

5. **It's Halloween October 31-Keep Injury Prevention in Mind when Trick-or-Treating:** Once again the goblins will be out in force on October 31. As the days get shorter and darkness surrounds Alaska it is important to remember some basic injury prevention interventions to make your trick-or-treating enjoyable: Be Safe - Be Seen: wear light costumes or better yet reflectorize your costume. Be careful of pedestrians wandering the streets around your town. Children cannot judge the time it takes to stop a car and often make poor choices when crossing the street. Costume your child in flame retardant clothes and make sure that the costume does not impair their vision or hearing. For more information you can log on: www.safekids.org, click on the Media Center and check out how to make your Halloween safer or you can print a flyer entitled " Mind your Munchkins" from the Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov
6. **Car Seat Heaters: A Potential Hazard for Burns:** Manguina P, Palmieri TL, Greenhalgh DG. American Burn Association. Car seat heaters have gained popularity in America. They offer comfort by heating the sitting surface. Several cases of heating-element malfunction resulted in burn injuries and have triggered recalls of thousands of cars by the manufacturers. Drivers with decreased sensation or immobility are also at increased risk and should not use car seat heaters as they can cause severe burns. The authors of this research stress the need for design modifications and consumer education regarding the risks associated with car seat heaters.
7. **CPSC celebrates 30 years of saving lives:** The Consumer Product Safety Commission, an independent federal agency celebrated its 30th anniversary on October 8 by recognizing employees that have been with the agency since its inception. "Nearly one in ten employees at the Commission have been with the agency since its creation," said Chairman Hal Stratton. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.
8. **Product recalls and other CPSC Safety Information:** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: www.cpsc.gov. Take a moment to review the CPSC press releases proposing mandatory standards

for baby bath seats and to develop federal standards for upholstered furniture flammability performance.

This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer:
karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list serve: http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm

Link for AHELP list serve: <http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>